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# Major News Releases and Speeches

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# Speeches

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

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**Remarks by Mary C. Jarratt, Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, at the National Extension Food and Nutrition Specialists Workshop, Chicago, Sept. 28, 1981**

## **UPDATE ON THE ROLE OF USDA IN FOOD AND NUTRITION**

I bring you greetings and best wishes from Secretary Block. I appreciate the opportunity to be with you this morning to share with you some of the initiatives of the new administration in the areas of nutrition education and research.

The USDA supports a broad spectrum of education, information, and research programs in human nutrition. This support began shortly after the Department was chartered by Congress in 1862. It has flourished side by side with our commitment to a productive agriculture. Good nutrition and a productive agriculture are both vital to the good health of the American people and to those who rely on us abroad. The best guarantee of a strong country is a healthy people, and good health begins with access to a good food supply. Let's remember that basic nutritional needs will be met only when we have a healthy and prosperous agriculture. An economy with high interest rates and low returns for both capital and labor has severe affects on the producers of food. To ensure an adequate food supply, government first must clear the road for a strong economy.

Budgetary pressures aren't going to ease quickly. More reductions in the budget have been announced this past week. I assure you that efforts to restrain the federal budget will continue until we can get things turned around. Our experience shows that we can't chase away local problems by drowning them in federal dollars. We have to make the dollars we spend count, and we are setting about doing this at USDA.

This administration is attempting to place more responsibility with local units of government and the private sector. It is important to note that the administration is not suggesting that government simply pass

off the responsibility. Instead, we are looking to develop cooperative efforts with local governments, with the public, and with the private sector.

We will continue the recent tradition of close cooperation between Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture in nutrition activities. The assistant secretary for health, Dr. Brandt, and I meet monthly to discuss mutual problems and proposals. One issue we have devoted considerable time to is the development of a comprehensive national nutritional status and monitoring system. The purpose will be to provide reliable information upon which to base food, nutrition and health policy.

I am delighted that the National Nutrition Monitoring System is nearing finalization and the implementation plan will be submitted to Congress early this Fall. This plan establishes a framework for increased coordination between the Nationwide Food Consumption Survey (conducted by USDA) and the Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (conducted by DHHS). Also, it will provide broader population coverage, including high risk population groups. There will be data sharing between agencies and more rapid processing of data all along the line. Hopefully, this information will do much to improve the nutritional status of the population.

We need to continue to encourage close working relationships among the nutrition professionals who work in Extension, Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative Research Service, Human Nutrition Information Services and with the Food and Nutrition Service. The purpose of the recent reorganization, cut along functional lines of responsibility, is to increase the efficiency of the Department's programs.

Basic research components of the former Human Nutrition Center are now under the Agricultural Research Service, and a new agency, the Human Nutrition Information Service, is under my jurisdiction. As you probably know, the Human Nutrition Information Service was formed from the Consumer Nutrition Center, the Nutrition Information and Dietary Guidance Staff, and the Food and Nutrition Information Center of the National Agriculture Library. These three units are responsible for food and dietary surveillance, maintaining the nutrient data bank and food composition tables, dietary guidance,

nutrition information and bibliographic services.

The establishment of this new agency dedicated to nutrition information is an important step in highlighting USDA's role in nutrition information. While this elevates the nutrition information activity in the Department to an independent agency, we should keep in mind the importance of Extension as an outreach to people and which historically has engaged in editing and dissemination of nutrition information as the educational arm of USDA. This coincides with the Administration's determination to provide the public with better nutrition information.

We now are searching for a director of this new agency—a nutritionist—who is a competent administrator and communicator and understands research, extension and teaching.

We are working closely with the nutrition staff of the Extension Service. The continuing education teleconference held on Sept. 1 for Extension and research staffs at the land grant universities is an example of our commitment to interdepartmental cooperation. This project was designed through the auspices of the former Science and Education Administration when the Extension Service and the Human Nutrition Center where both were with the same agency. Together with the Department of Health and Human Services, we hope to sponsor a second nationwide video-teleconference, which is on the topic of infant feeding. We also are investigating the feasibility of cooperative state staff training of FNS program nutritionists and Extension personnel using the teleconferencing technique.

The long history of cooperation between Cooperative Extension Service and the local food stamp office continues. Since the early 1950's, Extension professionals and paraprofessionals have been teaching low income families to prepare, purchase and serve nutritious meals. In more recent years, major legislation was introduced to support Extension and FNS's work together for the benefit of the target audience. Extension testified at the 1976 food stamp hearings. As a result of these hearings, the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 states that "to encourage the purchase of nutritional foods, the Secretary shall extend EFNEP to the greatest extent possible to reach food stamp participants". The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) has long been a favorite of mine because it is effective in



helping participants improve their diets. Those at the poverty line and below achieve a quality return on the assistance it offers. For too long, we have measured the impact of our low income assistance efforts in terms of the dollar commitment and have neglected to measure the quality of the benefit. A dollar transfer doesn't guarantee better nutrition; we are most likely to get a quality return when our assistance is coupled with nutritional education as in the EFNEP program.

Maternal, infant and child nutrition education is a special interest of mine. I'm pleased that nearly all of the State Cooperative Extension Services have some activity related to maternal, infant or child nutrition.

What do I need from you? I need reliable sources of information upon which to propose legislation, formulate policy and make management decisions. I will rely heavily on research and program evaluations to provide this information.

I'm looking forward to the completion of Extension's evaluation of educational methods to expand the EFNEP program to a larger number of needy families. Sixteen pilot projects were funded in FY 80 to test innovative methods. Evaluation of those projects led to implementation of ten projects this year to test three educational methods. Concepts tested in these projects should help us improve EFNEP and the Food Stamp Program on a national level and the lives of the people we serve on an individual level.

I am sure you have heard the erroneous report that we are withdrawing the Dietary Guidelines. We have not, despite what you may be reading in the press, rescinded the guidelines. The Government Printing Office has just reprinted dietary guidelines for sale at a modest price.

The guidelines still are in use in the Department's education and information programs. We plan to review the dietary guidelines periodically to make sure they are consistent with current knowledge. As the knowledge base changes, we will review and revise these recommendations in much the same way as those of the RDA Committee are reviewed and revised every 5 years.

Extension food and nutrition professionals are needed to tailor the information to the needs of the consumers. With so much nutrition and food information generated and available for dissemination, Extension



professionals have the challenge to help the people decide and consider the most critical issues affecting their personal diet and health.

Extension, too, can perform an important role in testing food guidance tools. Educational programs and research are needed to determine which food guides are effective tools for attaining optimal nutrient intake for persons at nutritional risk such as the old, the poor, pregnant teens, people with allergies, and with other diet-related risks.

During the past few months we have seen a new approach to government. President Reagan is returning responsibility to the people. He is offering flexibility for programs to be administered on the local level. It is the most important part of the President's recovery program because it underscores his sincere belief in the people and the ability of professionals to utilize their expertise at the local level. You, as professionals, can provide the strength and the power to help make it all happen.

We also must explore a variety of cooperative nutrition information programs with the private sector.

The Department needs to continue working closely with concerned groups, such as Extension Service professionals, paraprofessionals and volunteer homemakers who can take credit for putting nutrition education high on the national agenda. It's through your work that nutrition education will continue to improve and be available to all Americans.

I want this audience to know that this Department and this administration recognize the contribution made by extension professionals, including nutritionists, food scientists and home economists. We look to an even greater contribution in the months and years ahead.

Thank you very much and best wishes for this meeting. I hope you will advise me on the ideas that are discussed here, so we can keep current in our thinking as we move ahead with the President's program. My door is always open. I may not always be able to agree with your views, but I will always listen. I hope you will come to me with your ideas.

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**Remarks prepared for delivery by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, Cooperative League of USA, Annual Congress, Washington, D.C., Sept. 29, 1981**

During the past several years, I've been able to view our nation's agricultural industry from several vantage points—as a farmer, as a state director of agriculture, and now as secretary of agriculture. I've gained some new perspectives over these years, but there is one thing that always remains constant. Whether I look at this industry from the seat of a tractor, or from my desk in Washington, D.C.—my pride in what we are accomplishing has never changed.

It's that type of pride that any farmer would feel as he drives past row after row of tall corn and clean beans, or pastures filled with healthy livestock. It's also the pride in seeing the tremendous contribution agriculture is making to this nation. It's the pride in knowing that we used our own ingenuity and our own energy to make agriculture work.

When President Reagan spoke to the nation last week, he talked about a spirit within the people of this country. He said it was the spirit that built the West without a redevelopment plan, and cities across the land without federal planners. It was the spirit typical of those who helped build a neighbor's barn when it burned down. I might add that it was this same spirit which built our nation's agriculture within the framework of a free and competitive enterprise system—without set-asides, support programs or other major government programs. This is one of the reasons why I strongly support the concept and practice of agricultural cooperatives in the United States. In a very real sense, they embrace the spirit, the pride and the meaning of American agriculture.

I want to talk to you today about my views of the cooperative system, and why I think it is a powerful force in agriculture. Then I will briefly outline the functions of our Agricultural Cooperative Service—and lastly, we'll talk about some other things we are doing to help farmers receive a fair return for their work.

Over the past eight or nine months, I've spoken with farmers and ranchers who produce just about every agricultural commodity in this country. They all come with the same message. They want long-range prosperity in their industry—but they don't want a prosperity that is

built upon taxpayer dollars. They want government to simply clear the road, so that their profits are tied directly to their own ingenuity and performance.

I have always felt that the most effective government programs are those that help the producers help themselves. This is the philosophy of the Reagan administration. Our goal is to improve farmers' self-sufficiency by decreasing their reliance on government.

When I say that this is our goal, I'm talking about all of us in the industry working together. Agricultural cooperatives offer a sound approach toward reaching this goal—much more than any government program can offer. That's why I feel the government's greatest contribution to the cooperative system is to simply clear the road so that it can function.

This is especially important now, as we struggle to cure an economy that is infected with high inflation and runaway interest rates. President Reagan fully realizes that a strong agriculture is essential to the recovery of our nation's economy. He knows that we have to keep this industry productive, healthy and most important of all—self-sufficient. To reach this objective, I feel it is imperative that we work to maintain and strengthen the financial base of our nation's agricultural cooperatives. That is why I see the U.S. Department of Agriculture assuming a strong policy-making role concerning any governmental legislation or regulations affecting these cooperatives.

The Agricultural Cooperative Service is USDA's focal point for providing assistance and policy advice to cooperatives. Our efforts are not only to assist existing cooperatives, but also to help farmers organize new cooperatives. The agency's programs are directed toward five basic areas: Technical assistance, cooperative development, research, collection of cooperative statistics and cooperative education.

Our technical assistance is provided in response to requests from farmers, or cooperative boards. We provide help in developing new cooperatives, determining the merits of merging cooperatives, assessing changes in organization to enhance growth and establishing more effective relationships between cooperatives and other business.

Our research efforts are designed to provide farmers and policy-makers with accurate data on problems relating to cooperatives. Efforts are made to identify major adjustment problems facing cooperatives,

and to assemble the research needed to address them.

Statistical data is also collected to detect changes in structure, operations, and growth. These data help identify and support our applied research and technical assistance activities.

The ACS also serves as the national focal point for educational information on cooperatives. This information is usually communicated through a variety of informational and educational publications.

All of these areas that I have talked about fall under one single purpose—to help farmers help themselves. This is the direction we are taking as we look at our entire domestic farm policy. What we're really talking about is the difference between government involvement—and government interference.

In agriculture, government involvement is best when it provides opportunity to let the free-market system work. That's the only way we are going to bring long-lasting prosperity to this industry—a prosperity that is based on a solid self-supporting foundation.

At the same time, we will be doing all that we can to encourage stronger prices for our nation's producers. One of the actions we have already taken was the announcement of our intentions to implement a reduced-acreage program for the 1982 wheat crop. Granted, this is something that I was not very excited about. But, I'm less excited about low farm prices.

Net income is suffering now—partly because of interest rates, partly because of inflation and partly because we are trying to overcome the damages caused by an ill-advised grain embargo. None of these problems were caused by our producers, and they should not be expected to take more than their share of the burden. We have to help our producers absorb the shock that is bound to occur as we withdraw from years of government interference. I am convinced that once we have completed this task, we will have an agriculture that can depend on the marketplace.

I know it's going to take time to turn things around, but we'll get the job done if we work together. Agricultural cooperatives can provide a structure of strength within the industry during this period—and that is important. It is important to you, to the people that the cooperative serves, and to the people around the world who depend on American agriculture for food and clothing. I think it represents a tremendous

responsibility, a great challenge—and I hope you are as excited about it as I am.

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# News Releases

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## **BLOCK WITHDRAWS PROPOSED REVISIONS IN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25—U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said today he is withdrawing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed revisions in meal patterns for federally-assisted school food programs.

Block's statement came shortly after he discussed the issue with President Reagan at the White House today. He said the president agreed the proposed revisions should be reconsidered due to adverse public reaction.

"The president and I both strongly feel that the intent of the proposed revisions was sound and in step with the administration's goal to reduce federal regulation and return flexibility to local units of government," Block said. "However, it appears that the administration's intent was not clearly understood in the form that the proposals were drafted. Our task now is to study the proposals, restructure them if necessary and again present them for public inspection."

Block said he has been in contact with the White House on the matter throughout the past two weeks. But it was not until after his meeting with the president today that Block made the decision to withdraw the revisions.

The regulations, which under administrative procedures were to be commented on until Oct. 5, basically gave local school districts and local school dietitians more flexibility in meal planning.

"The proposal set minimum standards that local school districts must face for federal reimbursement purposes. It did not set maximums or establish school menus as critics of the measure lead the public to believe," Block said.

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## **SUGAR IMPORT FEES INCREASED SLIGHTLY**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28—Import fees applicable to raw and refined sugar will be raised to 1.531 and 2.051 cents per pound, respectively, effective Oct. 1, according to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block. At present, the fee for raw sugar is 1 cent per pound and for refined sugar, 1.52 cents per pound.

These actions are mandatory under terms of a 1978 presidential proclamation which provides for automatic fee adjustments in response to changes in world prices, Block said.

From October 1979 to mid-August 1981, world raw sugar prices remained above the level requiring imposition of import fees. Beginning in August, however, prices began to decline rapidly, Block said. On Sept. 4 prices fell to a point which triggered the emergency provisions of the proclamation. Block said the emergency provisions require fee adjustments within three market days. USDA announced the emergency fee increase Sept. 10.

The price declines, Block said, were in response to expectations of bumper crops in many major producing countries, and particularly to prospects of heavy subsidized exports from the European Economic Community.

The base period for the current fee adjustment was Aug. 21 to Sept. 18, a period of 20 market days. The average price—as calculated from spot quotations issued by the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange—was 11.944 cents per pound.

Block said that, as with all quarterly fee adjustments, shipments in transit are not exempted from the new import fees.

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## **USDA TO REVIEW NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER SALE CONTRACT EXTENSION POLICY**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will decide by mid-October whether to extend existing national forest timber sale contracts, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture John B. Crowell said today.

Firms which successfully bid for the right to harvest timber on national forests agree to time limits within which all the contract's terms must be met. Forest Service rules require that certain amounts of timber must be harvested and certain types of roads must be built before extensions to the contracts may be granted.

Crowell said the continued depression of the housing market, caused by high interest rates in the last two years, has made it difficult for many purchasers of national forest timber to complete outstanding timber sale contracts.

"It is important that national forest timber purchasers adhere to contract terms in order to assure an orderly flow of lumber and plywood to the market," Crowell said.

"However," he said, "we are aware of the serious problems faced by many purchasers because of the poor market conditions. In response to industry inquiries, we are actively considering some modifications for timber sale contract terms and will announce any proposed changes by the middle of October."

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## **USDA EXTENDS MATURITY DATE ON 1980-CROP SOYBEAN LOANS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Soybean farmers whose 1980-crop government soybean loans are scheduled to mature in September and subsequent months may—at their discretion—extend their loans for up to four months.

According to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block, this action will provide producers additional time to market their soybeans and will relieve some pressure on currently depressed markets.

Farmers who wish to extend their loans should contact the county office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service where the original loan was made.

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## **CCC INTEREST RATES TO REMAIN AT 14.5 PERCENT THROUGH OCTOBER**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—Interest rates for 1981-crop loans and storage facility and dryer loans made through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will remain at 14.5 percent through Oct. 31, according to Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block.

The 14.5 percent rate has been in effect since April 1, when USDA announced it was instituting a "floating" interest rate, subject to adjustment, on 1981-crop and facility loans.

The variable interest rate on outstanding loans—which enables CCC to adjust rates in line with borrowing costs to the U.S. Treasury—will continue in effect, Block said. However, since interest rates at this time appear to be trending downward, an extension of the 14.5 percent rate will allow time to evaluate interest costs to CCC, he said.

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## **USDA'S COTTON USER FEE AND INCREASED SERVICE PRICES TO BE EFFECTIVE OCT. 1**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30—Starting Oct. 1, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will charge a user fee for classing producer's cotton, charge more for official USDA cotton standard forms and increase fees for other cotton services.

Jesse F. Moore, cotton official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the actions are being taken following a period for public comment that ended Sept. 10. The user fee, which has been set at 60 cents per bale, and the increased prices for standards are required under the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981, Moore said.

Previously, producers' cotton was classed free by USDA under provisions of the Smith-Doxey Act.

The new Oct. 1 prices for cotton standard forms include:

—Domestic shipments of physical grade standards for American Upland cotton will be \$150 for the 12-sample Universal Standards box and \$80 for a 6-sample guide box.

—A 6-sample grade standard for American Pima cotton will cost \$110.

—Staple standards for American Upland and American Pima cotton will be available for \$11 and \$12 per one-pound roll, respectively.

Moore said the increased fees charged for cotton classing service under the Cotton Standards Act and for cotton futures certification and cottonseed grading supervision are needed because it now costs USDA about 20 percent more to provide these services than in 1979 when the last fee revision was made.

New fees for some of the most widely used services include:

—The fee for classing cotton under the Cotton Standards Act will be \$1 per sample.

—The fee for rewriting classification memoranda will be \$1.80 per sheet.

—The fee for a combination classification for cotton futures will be \$2 per sample.

Moore said all of the new fees and prices will be published in the Oct. 1 Federal Register. Information about the fees is also available from: Cotton division, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C., 20250.

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## **NORTH DAKOTA AND RHODE ISLAND DECLARED FREE OF BRUCELLOSIS IN SWINE**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30—North Dakota and Rhode Island have been added to the growing list of states that have been declared free of brucellosis in swine, according to veterinary officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Granville H. Frye, chief staff veterinarian for swine brucellosis eradication in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said North Dakota and Rhode Island were approved for validated brucellosis-free status Aug. 26 and Sept. 9, respectively.

"North Dakota qualified for validation by testing all herds selling breeding stock and the required percentage of sows and boars sent to slaughter," Frye said. "This testing started in July 1979 and was completed June 30, 1981."

Rhode Island achieved free status using the area testing method of validation. Under this method, Frye said, all herds in the state were tested and qualified as validated brucellosis free from July 1980 to June 1981.

The addition of North Dakota and Rhode Island raised the number of validated brucellosis-free states to 18, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The other validated states are: California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

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## **18 INDICTED IN CHICAGO FOR FOOD STAMP TRAFFICKING**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today announced the indictments of 18 persons in Chicago on federal and state charges of fraud in the food stamp program. The arrests and indictments resulted from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's continuing efforts to prevent abuse of this program.

Five retail food store owners, two retail clerks and one tavern owner were charged by a federal grand jury with trafficking in food stamps following an undercover investigation by special agents of USDA's Office of Inspector General supported by Chicago police and the Cook County, Ill., Sheriff's Department.

At the same time, a Cook County grand jury charged ten persons with theft and perjury in connection with using multiple identities to obtain food stamps, medical and welfare benefits exceeding \$550,000. The inspector general investigation leading to these charges grew from a computer matching operation by OIG auditors which is geared to identify persons receiving benefits under more than one name.

Block said today's action is one of many during the past year throughout the nation where cooperation between USDA's inspector general and other federal and local authorities have resulted in bringing food stamp violators to justice. Block added that since January 1981 the USDA inspector general has obtained 424 indictments in the food



stamp program, and that there have been more than 600 indictments returned in this program.

Block said today's activity is part of a continuing aggressive movement by USDA to address and ferret out fraud, waste and abuse in its programs and is part of this administration's increasing effort to tighten program weakness. Block said the conviction rate in food stamp fraud cases investigated by OIG and prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice is well over 90 percent.

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## **LODWICK ISSUES STATEMENT IN MOSCOW ABOUT U.S.-SOVIET GRAIN TALKS**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Seeley G. Lodwick, under secretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs, today issued this statement in Moscow at the conclusion of the biennial consultations under the U.S.-USSR Grains Agreement:

"We have conducted the first session of regular semi-annual grain consultations for the sixth year of the U.S.-USSR Grain Agreement.

"After reviewing both the U.S. supply situation and the Soviet grain needs, we concluded that in addition to the 8 million tons already provided for in the long term agreement, the U.S. would make a further 15 million tons available.

"This 15 million tons would be available for sale by U.S. exporters to the Soviet Union for shipment during the sixth agreement year—purchases between Oct. 1, 1981, and Sept. 30, 1982. This grain will be available to the USSR without the need for further consultations between the two governments.

"This action is pursuant to Article 6 of the agreement which provides that whenever either side wishes to trade to go above the basic agreement levels, there will be prior consultations to agree on the amount of additional supply.

"During the two-day meeting, we thoroughly discussed the world supply and demand situation, U.S. supplies and possible Soviet needs. At this state of the year, it would be my best judgment that of the additional 15 million metric tons now made available, Soviet purchases



for shipment during the sixth agreement year will be approximately 10 million tons.

"In making the additional 15 million metric tons available to the USSR, the U.S. did not specify that the Soviets buy any particular quantity of either wheat or corn.

"It would be my judgment that further Soviet purchases this year will continue to include significant amounts of each.

"The next regular session of consultations will be in Washington, D.C., probably next spring, to further review the prospects for trade for the sixth year of the agreement.

"Article 8 of the agreement said these consultations will be held twice annually, but more often whenever requested by either country. Accordingly, we will remain in close contact during the interim.

"The results of this week's meeting represents a further step in the process of normalizing U.S.-USSR grain trade, which began with President Reagan lifting the embargo last April.

"The results of these talks will be helpful in providing U.S. farmers with added indication that the overall level of U.S. grain exports to all destinations this year will be up significantly from last year."

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## **TRAKEHNER HORSES DEPORTED**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Fifteen Trakehner horses, originally from West Germany, which were brought into the United States illegally last year, have been deported.

A federal district court ordered the horses, all mares, to be deported because the Illinois owner failed to meet U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations to protect the nation's horses against a venereal disease.

"The mares were in violation of our animal import regulations because they were misrepresented when they were imported from Denmark," said John Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "The mares were moved from West Germany to Denmark in August of 1980 and then exported to the United States as Danish horses in September of 1980."

The United States has banned the import of West German mares since 1978 when contagious equine metritis, a venereal disease of horses, was diagnosed in horses in that country.

Atwell said that APHIS veterinarians confirmed the origin of the horses in the spring of 1981 and ordered the mares out of the country. The owner, Marie-Louise Barton, sued to stop this action. The Federal District Court in East St. Louis, Ill., ordered Barton to comply with the USDA regulations, and the horses were deported.

"We viewed deportation as a necessary step in preserving the integrity of our control program," Atwell said. "If the horses were allowed to remain, others would introduce horses illegally with the expectation that courts would allow them to stay if the horses could be proved free of disease. It is likely diseased horses would be included in such importations."

Contagious equine metritis is a highly contagious bacterial infection that most notably affects mares. It causes uterine infection and failure to conceive. The stallion is a carrier and can be freed of the bacteria by washing and antimicrobial treatment of the external genitalia. Antibiotics can be used to help free mares of the infection, but treatment is not always successful.

USDA restricts the import of breeding age horses from countries where the disease has been found. Geldings and horses under two years of age are not affected by these import restrictions. Stallions may be imported if they have been treated with an approved medication under foreign government supervision and are found to be free of the infection on three successive tests. They must then pass USDA port-of-entry quarantine to check for other diseases before being consigned to a state that has agreed to carry out further inspections, precautionary treatments and testing under state quarantine.

The disease was accidentally introduced into Kentucky in 1978. It cost the Thoroughbred breeders in that state an estimated \$13.6 million to bring the outbreak under control. The disease was found in Trakehner horses in Missouri in 1979; it cost breeders in that state about \$320,000 to control.

Contagious equine metritis was first reported in the United Kingdom in 1977. Since then, it has been identified as a new disease in nine countries: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Federal

Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan and the United States.

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## **JONES TO HEAD PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ADMINISTRATION**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today appointed B. H. Jones, a native of Colorado, as administrator designate of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Packers and Stockyards Administration.

That agency is responsible for administering the Packers and Stockyards Act, a fair trade practices law which promotes fair and open competition in buying and selling livestock, meat and poultry.

Jones, who will assume his new duties Oct. 4, said he is coming to the agency at a particularly interesting time.

"The livestock, meat and poultry industries are undergoing rapid changes, and the agency will have to keep pace," he said. "The agency has already begun to update its regulations, and I'm anxious to carry on that work."

Jones has been vice president of the National Cattlemen's Association for the last four years. From 1971 to 1977, he was executive vice president of the National Livestock Feeders Association. He was assistant director of agriculture of the Nebraska State Department of Agriculture from 1961 to 1967.

In addition to positions in agricultural research and journalism, Jones was a consultant to a national farm publication, trade associations, cattle operations and news media. He spent his early years ranching and farming with his father and two brothers in western Colorado.

Jones received a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, and a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Illinois, Urbana.

Jones will report to C.W. McMillan, who is assistant secretary of agriculture for marketing and inspection services. The position of administrator of the Packers and Stockyards Administration recently

became available as a result of a USDA reorganization, which restored P&SA to agency status.

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### **THREE SHEEP FLOCKS DESTROYED BECAUSE OF SCRAPIE INFECTION**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—U.S. Department of Agriculture officials said two sheep flocks in Wisconsin and one in Virginia—totaling 250 sheep—have been destroyed to stop the spread of scrapie, a slow-acting but invariably fatal disease of sheep and goats.

Dr. Jack R. Pitcher, a veterinarian with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the two flocks in Wisconsin were located by USDA veterinarians while they were tracing the movement of sheep into and out of another flock that had been found infected. The Virginia flock was destroyed because scrapie was recently diagnosed in tissue from a dead ram.

"In Wisconsin, USDA officials learned that an infected ram had been purchased from a flock that had been found infected and was destroyed last July near Janesville in Rock County," Pitcher said. "The USDA found the owner had also sold sheep to a person near Custer, in Portage County, Wis. That sale included a ewe that was twin to the originally infected ram."

The veterinarians found definite evidence of scrapie infection at the Portage County farm, thereby linking all three premises as part of the same scrapie outbreak, Pitcher said.

"To stop the outbreak, officials ordered the flocks in Rock and Portage Counties destroyed," he said. "There were 50 sheep in Rock County and 100 in Portage in the two flocks. Owners were paid indemnities to compensate for their losses."

In Warren County, Va., a flock of 100 sheep and three goats was destroyed because scrapie was diagnosed in a ram that died about two years earlier.

"Normally, this diagnosis would have been made promptly through a microscopic examination of the ram's brain tissues," Pitcher said. "However, the tissues had been damaged by freezing before they

arrived at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's National Veterinary Service Laboratories at Ames, Iowa. Laboratory scientists had to attempt to culture the virus in live mice, wait for the mice to die, and then examine their brain tissues with a microscope. This took two years."

Scrapie attacks the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It may take months, or even years, before clinical symptoms appear. During that time the disease may be spread to other flocks when infected animals are bought and sold.

"An essential part of USDA's scrapie eradication program is intensive tracing of animal movements and monitoring suspected flocks," Pitcher said.

Affected animals may constantly rub against fixed objects, apparently to relieve intense itching. This leaves the skin raw and bare of wool. Animals may also show a lack of coordination, and their general physical condition degenerates, Pitcher said.

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## **FOURTH ESTIMATE OF 1981 MEAT IMPORTS REDUCED**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today said U.S. meat imports in 1981 are expected to be more than 200 million pounds below the level which would require restraints on imports under the Meat Import Law.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's fourth quarterly estimate of U.S. meat imports indicates the United States will import about 1.235 billion pounds of meat during 1981. The trigger point for imposing quotas under the law is 1.447 billion pounds. The law requires the president to restrict imports of certain meats—primarily beef and veal—if USDA estimates that imports of those meats will equal or exceed the trigger level.

When the second and third quarterly estimates were made, Block said an analysis of conditions in this country and abroad affecting meat imports strongly suggested that there would be no need for import



restrictions for the remainder of the year. The fourth quarterly estimate continues this outlook.

USDA makes a new estimate of meat imports before each calendar quarter.

The next estimate, the first quarterly estimate for 1982, will be made before Jan. 1.

Imports of meats subject to the law—by month—are shown in the following table.

MONTH	1978	1979	1980	1981
million pounds				
January	79.2	120.9	144.3	79.5
February	100.3	134.2	107.0	109.2
March	150.8	151.5	97.1	90.6
April	132.6	142.4	101.9	107.6
May	140.9	144.6	105.0	81.9
June	105.7	139.4	99.5	98.1
July	105.2	120.7	146.0	112.2
August	104.9	104.9	123.4	102.1
September	132.5	84.8	100.5	
October	115.7	122.5	132.4	
November	231.4	132.0	114.6	
December	86.1	155.9	160.3	
TOTAL <sup>1</sup>	1,485.5	1,553.8	1,422.0	

<sup>1</sup>Totals may not add due to rounding.

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## STATES RECEIVE INTERIM PAYMENTS FROM NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Forty states and Puerto Rico will receive a total of more than \$171 million as an interim payment of their share of national forest receipts for fiscal year 1981, Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block announced today.



The checks represent about 75 percent of the total amounts due the states as their share of receipts collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service for the use of national forest products and services during the fiscal year.

Block said the remainder of the funds due to the states will be paid in early December, when the actual receipts for the fiscal year have been computed.

"We expect the total payments made to states this year will be more than \$228 million," Block said.

By law, 25 percent of the revenues collected by the Forest Service from timber sales, grazing, recreation, mineral and land use charges on the national forests are returned annually to the states where those lands are located. The funds are to be used for schools and roads.

In March, the Forest Service assists the states in their budget planning by estimating the amount owed each state for the year. Then in October, the states receive an interim payment representing 75 percent of the estimated total they are owed so the states can receive funds as soon as possible after the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30).

The five states receiving the largest interim payments are Oregon, \$71.5 million; California, \$28 million; Washington, \$23.5 million; Idaho, \$7.1 million, and Montana, \$5.6 million.

The interim payments and the estimated total amounts to be received by each state from the 1981 national forest receipts are:

STATE	Interim Payment Made Oct. 1	Estimated Total Due for Fy 81
Alabama	\$1,019,032.12	\$1,358,709.49
Alaska	3,209,812.50	4,279,750.00
Arizona	4,721,412.44	6,295,216.58
Arkansas	2,605,011.76	3,473,349.01
California	28,045,209.74	37,393,612.98

*(continued on next page)*

*(Interim payment continued)*

Colorado	1,414,241.98	1,885,655.97
Florida	1,004,717.38	1,339,623.17
Georgia	570,724.28	760,965.71
Idaho	7,143,778.55	9,525,038.07
Illinois	38,625.02	51,500.02
Indiana	57,187.51	76,250.01
Kentucky	152,112.89	202,817.18
Louisiana	1,370,122.77	1,826,830.36
Maine	12,145.97	16,194.63
Michigan	615,112.52	820,150.03
Minnesota	848,908.79	1,131,878.38
Mississippi	4,066,593.41	5,422,124.55
Missouri	2,437,500.03	3,250,000.04
Montana	5,635,643.30	7,514,191.06
Nebraska	50,184.38	66,912.51
Nevada	200,818.52	267,758.03
New Hampshire	179,854.10	239,805.46
New Mexico	2,072,057.53	2,762,743.37
North Carolina	466,318.36	621,757.81
North Dakota	46.32	61.76
Ohio	56,250.00	75,000.00
Oklahoma	351,717.81	468,957.08
Oregon	71,537,769.42	95,383,692.56
Pennsylvania	486,000.01	648,000.01
South Carolina	2,214,024.98	2,952,033.31
South Dakota	360,264.95	480,353.27
Tennessee	227,745.95	303,661.26
Texas	1,926,439.87	2,568,586.49
Utah	763,305.01	1,017,740.01
Vermont	115,687.53	154,250.04
Virginia	268,497.20	357,996.26
Washington	23,506,923.89	31,342,565.19
West Virginia	158,374.11	211,165.48
Wisconsin	348,000.01	464,000.01
Wyoming	817,800.57	1,090,400.76
Puerto Rico	5,581.88	7,442.50
GRAND TOTAL	171,081,555.36	228,108,740.41

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## **MILK SUPPORT PRICE INCREASED TO \$13.49 PER HUNDRED POUNDS**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block today announced the support level for manufacturing milk will be set at 75 percent of parity—\$13.49 per hundredweight—effective Oct. 1. This price is for milk with a milkfat content of 3.67 percent—the national average—and compares with the present support price of \$13.10.

The support price for milk with a milkfat content of 3.5 percent will be \$13.18, compared with the present support of \$12.80.

The support for milk is achieved by Commodity Credit Corporation's purchase of butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk. The prices CCC will pay for these products are shown below.

The announced increase is required by existing law. Block said the support price and purchase prices announced today will be adjusted to the minimum levels authorized upon enactment of the 1981 farm bill currently being considered by Congress.

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## **DAIRY SUPPORT PRICES ANNOUNCED**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2—Everett Rank, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the CCC purchase prices for butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk produced on or after Oct. 1.

These increased prices will carry out the higher milk support price of \$13.49 per hundred pounds announced Oct. 1 by Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block and are mandatory under existing legislation, which required milk prices be supported at 75 percent of parity, Rank said.

The support for milk is achieved by Commodity Credit Corporation's purchase of butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk. The prices CCC will pay for these products are shown below. The support price and purchase prices announced today will be adjusted to the

minimum levels authorized upon enactment of the 1981 farm bill currently being considered by Congress.

	Produced on	
	Produced before	or after
	Oct. 1, 1981	Oct. 1, 1981
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	
<b>BUTTER, U.S. GRADE A OR HIGHER</b>		
New York City and Jersey City, Newark and Secaucus, New Jersey <sup>1</sup>	1.52	1.56
<b>NONFAT DRY MILK (SPRAY) U.S. EXTRA GRADE</b> (but not more than 3.5 percent moisture)		
50-pound bags:		
Unfortified	.94	.965
Fortified (Vitamins A and D)	.9525	.9775
<b>CHEDDAR CHEESE, STANDARD MOISTURE BASIS</b>		
40-pound blocks, U.S. Grade A or higher	1.395	1.4325
500 pounds in fiber barrels, U.S. Extra Grade	1.365	1.4025

<sup>1</sup>The price of butter located at any other point outside these cities will be the price at New York minus 80 percent of the lowest published domestic railroad through freight rate for frozen butter in effect on Oct. 1 of each marketing year from such other point to New York City.

The appropriate freight rate will be calculated on a per pound gross weight basis for a 60,000-pound carlot. However, the price at any location shall be not less than the purchase price at New York City minus 3 cents per pound. For any location in Wisconsin or Kentucky, the price shall not exceed the purchase price at Chicago which for butter produced on or after Oct. 1 will be \$1.53 per pound.

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